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SOURCE ' Pravda Vostoka.

UTILIZE AGRICULTURAL MACHINES
TO BREAK SOIL CRUST

SOIL CRUST FORMATION DESTRUCTIVE -- Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 21 Apr 50

The formation of a soil crust after planting delays the sprouting of cotton seeds and sometimes leads to destruction of young plants. As a result, re-planting and, in some cases, resowing is necessary.

Soil crust can be removed only with the proper tools. Rotary hoes, horse-drawn rotary cultivators, KD cultivators, spike-tooth harrows, and various other machines are used for breaking the crust.

The rotary hoe is the best tool for breaking the crust. Its working depth should be between 4 and 6 centimeters. Rotary hoes can be either horse- or tractor-drawn.

The horse-drawn rotary cultivator is a simple machine which can be made in the kolkhoz machine shop. It is useful not only for breaking soil crust but also for loosening the soil between rows after the plants have sprouted. It can cultivate 3.5-4 hectares per day.

The KD cultivator is also very effective in breaking the crust and loosening the soil between rows.

Zig-zag harrows are also widely used to break soil crust, but only up to the time that the seed sprouts.

To prevent damage to the sown crop, it is most important to break the crust on the entire sown area within 1-2 days.

RE-WORK KASHKA-DAR'YA COTTON FIELDS -- Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 21 Apr 50

Heavy rains which fell throughout the entire Kashka-Dar'ya Valley were followed by warm sunny days with the result that a soil crust was formed over thousands of cotton fields.

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Harrows and rotary hoes were widely used to break the crust. One half of the cotton field area on the kolkhozes imeni 13th October Anniversary and Engels was gone over in the course of a day.

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